

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1963
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2002
MOVEMENT OF NATURAL PERSONS
PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the Government's perception about the implication of General Agreement on Trade and Services (GATS) for India;
- (b) whether the Government have pressed India's case for 'movement of natural persons' at WTO;
- (c) if so, the outcome thereof; and
- (d) whether the developed countries pressing for various other issues at WTO are agreeable to opening up of labour markets themselves?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY)

- (a) The General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) establishes non-discriminatory multilateral rules which facilitate international Trade in Services. Services are an important component of the Indian economy and the GATS provides an opportunity to improve India's share in world trade in Services.
- (b) to (d) India has submitted a proposal on Liberalisation of Movement of Professionals in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) which identifies the barriers faced in the movement of professionals for delivery of services and suggests strategies to achieve meaningful liberalisation in this area. The paper seeks sector-specific commitments, more transparency in administration of visa regimes, and multilateral norms for Economic Needs Tests and norms for recognition of qualifications. The issues raised in India's proposal are under discussion at the Special Sessions of the Council for Trade in Services (CTS) of the WTO. The negotiations under GATS are currently underway and the proposals in various service sectors including on Movement of Natural Persons are before the WTO member countries including the developed countries. The Agreement is applicable only to measures affecting temporary movement of natural persons for supply of service and does not apply to Natural Persons seeking access to the employment market, citizenship or residence on a permanent basis.